UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.6/1996/L.12
20 March 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Fortieth session
11-22 March 1996
Agenda item 3

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Action to be taken by the Commission:

Methods of work for dealing with the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Commission on the Status of Women adopts the following conclusions regarding its methods of work:

The Commission considers that its effectiveness and efficiency could be improved through innovative methods of work, including inviting experts to participate in the substantive debate on selected issues as part of the regular work of the Commission.

These innovative methods must be understood as a process that includes not only the sessions of the Commission but also the organization of work. Broad-based participation in the preparatory process for each session of the Commission must be encouraged. The practice of periodically convening meetings of the Bureau of the Commission open to the participation of all interested States should be encouraged and consolidated.

The documentation prepared for each item of debate should be available in all official languages in sufficient time to ensure active and wide participation in discussions.

The practice of inviting experts is expected to deal effectively with the critical areas established in the Beijing Platform for Action and to contribute to the effective follow-up of the Conference. The experts should be chosen from the fields of study addressed under the critical areas of concern, taking into

account equitable geographical distribution and the involvement of non-governmental organizations.

Panels of experts should be formed. They should include experts appointed by the Secretary-General, experts working within the United Nations system, and experts [from] Governments and from civil society.

The selection of experts, the composition of the panels, and the allocation of time to dialogues should be decided inter-sessionally by the Bureau of the Commission, taking into consideration the proposals of the United Nations Secretariat. The Secretariat should prepare a list of candidates for the panels based on suggestions from States and civil society. The Bureau should convene meetings open to the participation of all interested States to ensure a broad base of participation.

Meetings should be allotted to dialogue with organizations within the United Nations system and civil society and among governmental delegations. Sufficient time should be devoted to intergovernmental dialogue.

The results of the dialogues [should][could] be reflected in concise, action-oriented agreed conclusions to be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council by a Commission decision. They should also contain policy recommendations and identify coordination issues to be dealt with by the Council.

The Commission, in order to strengthen its capacity to act as a catalyst in support of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the work of the United Nations system, to identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men, and to review and appraise progress achieved and problems encountered in implementation of critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action:

(a) Should strengthen its cooperation with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including other functional commissions and their respective secretariats;

(b) [Should monitor progress on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women];

(c) Should make relevant documents available, through the Economic and Social Council, to other functional commissions and relevant United Nations expert bodies and mechanisms in order to assist in the integration of a gender perspective in their work;

(d) Bearing in mind the role of the Economic and Social Council in overall coordination, notes that increased dialogue between the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, the chairpersons and secretariats, as appropriate, of the other functional commissions, other subsidiary and related bodies and the relevant executive boards would assist in identifying issues that could be addressed under the agenda item on emerging issues and trends;

(e) Encourages the voluntary presentation of national information and suggests that such information should address the priority issues identified by the Commission on the Status of Women in its programme of work, bearing in mind that Governments are to develop comprehensive implementation strategies or national plans of action, including time-bound targets and benchmarks for monitoring, in order to implement the Platform for Action fully;

(f) [Notes further that the reports submitted by States to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other human rights treaty bodies, as well as the concluding comments and recommendations on the reports of States parties, are of direct relevance to the Commission's task of reviewing and appraising the implementation of the Platform for Action and its task of identifying emerging trends and approaches];

(g) [Encourages States to submit national reports for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action in the year 2000].